THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Boom Fever Reaches Its Peak

ROGER BABSON, the frightened economist and business forecaster, contributes his bit toward depression by predicting that 1948 will be the last "easy" year in the 1946-1955 decade. Business will be good next year, but after that the bust, according to the Babson chart.

Investors and entrepreneurs are advised by Mr. Babson against tying up much money in expanding small business. He warns jobholders to avoid changing, especially to join new firms, "because concerns which start in boom times often lack the leadership that can pull through a decline."

It will be recalled that Mr. Babson has been seeing calamity for some time. He has dug himself a hole in Kansas, at a place he calls Utopia, and is prepared to dive into it with his money and other knicknacks at the start of the atomic war which he expects. He recently deposited $10,000 in each of ten Middle Western banks in an area which he calls the "magic circle" and where he thinks his cash will be safest when the big blast comes. It hasn't occurred to him that his money would provide him much more protection if he gave it to CARE to purchase relief supplies for distressed people in lands where human recovery would do more than any other one thing to prevent chaos and war.

Mr. Babson admittedly is eccentric and apparently is more alarmed than most of our economists. However, it is clear that he reflects a state of mind that is widespread in the American business community as we head into 1948 on the price spiral. The political debates over inflation and the propaganda from the National Association of Manufacturers and other representatives of big business leave no doubt that the industrial, financial and commercial powers have decided that inflation cannot be curbed and that deflation or depression is inevitable. A large element in this economic fatalism is the desire of many interests, particularly the speculators, profiteers and gray market operators, for continued inflation. They see that the boom, if unchecked, must burst but they figure they can make enough hay during this lush period to tide them over the crash and the adjustment that follows.

We now are in the most deadly phase of the boom fever that has grown steadily since the war and the world crisis knocked supply and demand out of balance. This inflation psychology inhibits all our efforts at self control or government control during the period when production lags behind demand. It makes us forget our experience during the war when we successfully held the line on prices with OPA and other emergency measures. It now is encouraging the hoarding of reserves, reduction of inventories and curtailment of business expansion in anticipation of a slump that is made in evitable only because we refuse to use the control devices that are available to us.

A League Of Honest Men

IN his Christmas call for "a league of honest men," Pope Pius XII neglected to explain who is going to run this organization and how applicants are to be tested for admittance into the league. It must be admitted at the start that the task of finding one honest man in the world hasn't been simplified since the days when Diogenes worked overtime with his lantern.

Another reason for feeling discouragement over the future of this league is that the Pope directed his suggestion chiefly at Soviet Russia at the same time he was condemning, by inference, the Communist Government's adoption of the big lie as a cardinal policy of State. The Vatican obviously could have had no hope that the Papal plea for honesty and sincerity in diplomatic dealings would make any impression on the Kremlin experts in libel and misrepresentation. The Russians simply will interpret his message as more propaganda to depict them as the incarnation of deceit and evil while the Western people are held up as the personification of the true and the good, and that will inspire Vishinsky, Molotov & Co. to come forth with another bill of particulars on the hypocrites, prevarications and frauds of the West.

There can be no doubt that a "league of honest men" is just what the world needs but it is also evident that the place to start it is in the so-called Christian and democratic world outside Russia. For one good reason, such a league would seem to have more possibilities in this part of the globe at the present moment. For another thing, such a league would be our strongest weapon in the contest with Russia.

We can claim with some justice that we now are more devoted to the ideal of honesty than the present Soviet leadership but complete honesty requires the admission that we do not live up to our noble ideals by any means. Such an admission from us would have a demoralizing effect on the Russian propagandists. Imagine Mr. Vishinsky's consternation if Mr. John Foster Dulles should agree that there was some merit in his condemnation of American warmongers and his charge that democratic rights are denied to certain elements of the American population.

Candid confession that we are not always and absolutely in the right would also have the effect of hastening steps to correct conditions in the West that are wrong, undemocratic and un-Christian, and this would greatly strengthen us in the competition with Russia to determine who's right. The league would have much work to do in America and Western Europe before turning to Stalin's East for converts. It might begin by admitting that Spain is not a democratic country that upholds the freedoms for which we are fighting and go on from there.

There Were No Empty Stockings

THE day after Christmas is always one of warm memories of many good things. But we thought of yesterday provokes quite so pleasant a glow as the knowledge that no child or no adult in Mecklenburg County in real need missed the joy of Christmas.

The hundreds of individuals, clubs, and other organizations who contributed so generously to The Empty Stocking Fund made possible a Christmas remembrance for some 3,500 needy persons who otherwise would have risen to face a bleak, cold, bitter day. The number of recipients was about one-third larger than last year, reflecting the tight squeeze which higher prices have applied to those of a limited, fixed income—or no income at all.

Our own share in the mammoth undertaking was insignificant. We merely made the announcement that the Empty Stocking Fund was ready to be filled, and the gifts started pouring in. There were large contributions, and small contributions, but in every case they came straight from the heart.

Our appreciation is overwhelming for those who gave so generously. And our special thanks go out to those who worked with the Christmas Bureau, and to the officials and workers of the Community Council and its many allied social agencies. They gave many hours of their time to the consecrated task of seeing that no application or request failed of complete investigation. Through their efforts, duplication was avoided and the benefits of the $7,700 budget spread most widely and wisely.

We'll be back in the business next year. And we're utterly confident that the good people of this great community will once again join with us in making a success of an enterprise which has its inspiration in the unselfishness and generosity of the Christmas season.

From The Washington Post

Broken Homes

SIGNS of a more basic approach to the divorce problem than law passing or moral lecturing are increasing. Latest to advocate more long-range education and research on the subject is George Thorman, author of a new Public Affairs pamphlet, *Broken Homes*. After exploring the field of marriage breakdown for the Public Affairs Committee, Inc., a non-profit, educational organization, Mr. Thorman comes up with the conclusion that tightening divorce laws will not cut the number of divorces. He does not think divorce is primarily a legal problem. Rather it is a problem of the physical and psychological adjustment of two persons, who if they find their "dissatisfactions unbearable" will find some way of breaking their legal bonds.

Recalling our experience with prohibition, he says an unpopular, restrictive law on divorce could not be enforced. He points out that though States have been steadily tightening their divorce laws, divorce today is breaking up marriages three times as rapidly as it did a half century ago.

To attribute this to lenient marriage laws or prevailing moral laxity is superficial thinking, Mr. Thorman believes. Marriage, like other institutions, is trying to adapt itself to a rapidly changing world. Women particularly have a new attitude toward it. They will no longer endure cruelty or immorality just to make their marriages last. Both women and men expect more from marriage than formerly. In today's thinking a marriage is no longer "good" just because it lasts.

The time has come, Mr. Thorman thinks, to quit muddling through in marriage in an unscientific way. He would bring the combined efforts of doctors, psychiatrists, educators, ministers and social workers to bear on the problem, and would provide more premarriage education, more marriage counseling, and above all more research on marriage failures and how to avoid them.

The "music of the spheres" seems to have been overrated. Recent reports of solar tunes say they sound like gravel on a tin roof.—*Portsmouth Star.*

Heard Over The Coffee Cups—"The children are bound to lack a feeling of security. They never keep a servant over two days."—*Greenville (Miss.) Delta Democrat-Times.*

'Aren't You Glad To See Me?'

Barnet Nover

Wedemeyer Report

WASHINGTON

THE testimony of Lieut. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer before the Senate Appropriations Committee the other day lifted the veil from at least a corner of the mystery surrounding his famous, but still suppressed, report.

Washington is a city notoriously given to "leaks." Few things happen here that are not known or rumored soon after they happen. But there has been no "leaks" regarding the Wedemeyer report. Its contents are known only to the general, the members of his mission to China and a few top-ranking Government officials. Each of them has had a padlock on his lips.

The fact that the secret of the Wedemeyer report has been so well kept has not prevented the rumor-mongers from getting in their innings. Ever since the report was made, and so promptly suppressed, Washington has been alive with guesses as to what it contained and why it was put on ice.

One very-prevalent assumption has been that the report took such a dim view of the Chiang-Kai-Shek regime and of its chances of survival that the Government decided to suppress it in order not to give any aid and comfort to the Chinese Communists.

On the other hand, there were rumors that General Wedemeyer had recommended large-scale aid to China, that this was deemed unwise by the State Department, and that the Administration then decided not to make the general's report public.

TRUTH IN BETWEEN

The truth in all probability lies somewhere between these two opposing views as to what the Wedemeyer report contains.

General Wedemeyer, as those who know him can testify, is nothing if not a realist. When he went to China as head of a mission named by President Truman, he did not close his eyes to the facts. He found many things in China very far from his liking.

He found, for instance that the internal situation of China, "politically, economically, militarily, had greatly deteriorated since he had served there as commander of the United States forces and chief of staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

He found corruption more widespread than in the past. He found that few of the great reforms which Chiang had promised had been carried out and those that had been attempted had been sabotaged by incompetent underlings—too many of them war lords.

On the other hand, there is no reason to believe that between the time he wrote his report and the time he appeared before the Senate committee, General Wedemeyer had changed his mind as to what the United States ought to do about China.

The general told the Senators that he favors all possible aid to China, including military aid, because he believes in a policy of containing Communist expansion wherever it threatens. It is fair to assume this recommendation was in his report.

He did not state specifically how great that aid should be. The United States, he suggested, must make a world appraisal of its objectives before it could consider the requirements of special areas.

At the moment, this means that aid to China has to be subordinated to aid to Western Europe, where the major battle in the cold war is now being fought.

It is for this very reason that the Wedemeyer report was suppressed. The Administration feared that any proposal for aid to China coming at a time when large-scale aid for Europe was being asked, might either frighten off Congress from extending aid at all or dangerously reduce the aid Congress would vote Europe.

Marshall Plan, Key To The Future

World Peace Is An Immense Task

By JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON

SECRETARY MARSHALL has told us that there is only one way out of the zone of war, into which Soviet policy has brought the whole world. There must first be a "genuine settlement," which will then be "reflected in a paper agreement." And the essential requirement for this "genuine settlement" is to fill the political and economic vacuum that is now western Europe. In previous reports, the objectives and methods of Soviet policy have been examined. What are the requirements of the answering Western policy thus announced by Secretary Marshall?

In tactical terms, the policy is first to hold our own line, and then to launch a flank attack. On this plan, the major Western powers, Britain, France and the United States, have now united under American leadership. And what makes the plan possible at all is the promise of American resources to finance and support it.

OPTIMISM NOT JUSTIFIED

IT IS intensely misleading to become optimistic because the Germans are now anti-Communist, or because the French and Italians have just repelled the first Communist assaults upon the integrity of their states. Even in the present case, the French and Italian Governments would hardly have had the self-confidence to meet the Communist challenge if the European interim aid bill had not assured them of bread and fuel for their people.

At the same time, the recent crises have actually worsened the underlying economic situation in France and Italy. If strong measures are not taken to reverse the trend, economic misery must eventually drive the French and Italian peoples to the desperate remedies of desperate men—to acceptance of the totalitarianism of the Right or of the Left. If either France or Italy goes, the whole European structure will collapse. But strong measures to rehabilitate France, Italy, Germany and the rest of western Europe are now proposed, in the form of the European Recovery Program or Marshall Plan. This is the key to the future.

The Kremlin has now undertaken total incorporation into the Soviet sphere of all of eastern Europe. Some of the peoples in this area, like the unhappy Czechs, have known full freedom. All, except the Germans under Hitler, have known more freedom than prevails in Russia. What is more important still, all in varying degrees have been accustomed to a far higher level of life than the Russians.

PURGES ALREADY STARTED

THE EFFECT of total incorporation into the Soviet sphere will be, however, to reduce eastern Europe almost to the Russian level, both politically and economically. The Kremlin may not wish this to occur. But it will hardly be able to help itself. The signs are clear. Even now, after all last year's "Pravda" and "Izvestia" editorials about the virtues of the new "progressive tendencies," the purges to destroy all shadow of eastern European opposition are already starting. On the economic side, there is the advantage for the Soviets that eastern Europe is a surplus food producing region (as Russia used to be). Yet in eastern Germany overwhelming economic problems have long ago arisen, and in the rest of the region there seems to be trouble ahead.

The flank attack planned by the West will, of course, consist of the comparison between political and economic conditions in western and eastern Europe. If the comparison is strongly favorable, western Europe will then magnetically attract the eastern Europe countries within the Soviet sphere. Thus the power balance will be doubly altered, by a great accession of strength in the west, and by the creation of serious difficulties for the Soviets in the east. Such an alteration of the power balance is what is implied in Secretary Marshall's reference to a "genuine settlement." The power balance always determines all political settlements. The purpose of negotiation is to put on paper both sides' understanding of the nature of the power balance must first be clear.

This, then, is the underlying reasoning and plan of the Western leaders. This is the explanation of the present concentration on Europe. One more point is vital, however. The border between the Soviet and Western worlds is not in Europe only. It runs from the Baltic to the China Sea. And whereas the West has the best chance of turning the Western flank in the eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East or the Far East. Thus, while the main effort is made in the European theater, it is also absolutely necessary to hold firm in Greece and Turkey, Iran and Iraq, China and Korea, and the other points where Soviet attacks may be pressed home.

People's Platform

A Better Mint Museum

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

ON behalf of the Mint Museum of Art Association, and personally, I would like to express appreciation for the generous co-operation of THE NEWS in the publicizing of the activities of the Mint Museum of Art during the past year.

The sustained co-operation of the staff of THE NEWS has done much to assist the Mint Museum in making the public aware of the unique cultural, recreational and educational contribution which it makes to the life of this city and this area of the South. As you are aware, the Mint Museum of Art is the only admission-free cultural and educational activity available to the public, supported mainly by voluntary contributions of the public spirited citizens and organizations of the community. In rendering the service which your publication has, it has contributed toward the enjoyment and use of our exhibitions, classes and other facilities.

Particular thanks are directed to Miss Nancy Brame, Miss Freck Sproles, Mr. Tom Fesperman and Mr. George Hunter, the individuals co-operating most directly with the Museum. Their skillful use of their abilities have contributed much to the preparation of well written news features and stories. Their assistance is especially appreciated.

The Museum earnestly solicits your continued interest and assistance, to help increase its public service during the coming year.

—JOSEPH SHIELDS HUTCHISON,
Director.

Victor Riesel

CIO Political Plans

NEW YORK

YOU can give their regards to Broadway, the CIO Political Action Committee chiefs tell me, but they're going to work the Main Stx and back yards of America in this Presidential campaign.

Neither soap operas, million-dollar bright-light shows, Hollywood glamor nor jazzed up propaganda will swing votes, they say these days at the PAC National Headquarters in Washington.

Instead, when the PAC strategists, who in 1944 sent up more blood pressures than a Ziegfield chorus lin., meet early in January to start their drive they'll plan to get one out of every six of CIO's 6,000,000 members to take care of one block or elm-covered street in every city and town of the land.

* * *

They'd prefer a woman block captain—to carry out PAC's new orders. "Try to be helpful—but not nosy." The block captain will be told in new campaign leaflets. They will go in for "coffee cup" gossip.

CIO women will talk woman's talk over the phone; chat at the grocery store or butcher shop; take other families' children to school; and the talk won't be politics, but about the "new traffic lights added at the local high school, local rent ceilings and other daily problems which confront American home."

And then about election time, these block captains, the "CIO good neighbors," will use hundreds of cars to round up voters and get their friends to the polls. What Jack Kroll, PAC chief, says is, "We're trying to organize politically just as we organized our CIO unions — through people talking to other people and explaining issues which affect people."

This was done in a Paterson, N. J election not so long ago. PAC was trying to oust a Republican city official with an ex-soldier called Michael De Vita, who once won fame as the messenger who carried word from Gen. Eisenhower to delay the Normandy invasion because o' bad weather. The CIO piled 101 workers into autos on Election Day and got the factory people to the polls. De Vita won by 9,000 votes.

* * *

That technique will be PAC's big pitch. After the national PAC chiefs meet in Washington in a few weeks, several midwest conferences will be called to launch the intricate block-captain system in that sector.

It's Cincinnati that PAC is especially hot about. That's Sen. Taft's home city and PAC wants to take it next November. So the Cincinnati CIO has scheduled a big January demonstration to enlist election workers there.

In passing, I'd like to say that the PAC publicity people ought to cut out the nonsense of labeling Sen. Taft: "R.A.T." It's bad taste. If PAC wants to beat Taft, let it try to beat him on the issues.

* * *

Whether you agree with them or not, take my word for it, the PAC leaders are sincere in their drive. They're out to line up 1,000,000 block captains—and already have signed up over 100,000 for this business of bringing politics down to the neighborhood level.

They're getting out a PAC "instruction sheet" called "How We Win," which says in a-b-c terms:

"A block worker does a lot of things, all on his own block with the people he knows and the people who know him. He helps everybody on his block to vote, to register . . . He is a good neighbor who helps the people on his block when they need help. If Mrs. Jones gets sick, the block worker helps take care of the Jones kids. If Mr. Smith loses his job, the block worker helps him to try to find another.

"If Mrs. Brown gets in trouble with her landlord, the block worker has the answer."

* * *

There will even be PAC "how you do it" instructions for the shy and inexperienced canvasser ringing his first doorbell. Special recordings, describing in "interesting, humorous fashion" the trials of the new canvasser, will shortly be played in union halls. A new PAC pamphlet will advise "Try to Be Helpful — but Not Nosy."

And that's it. PAC's labor ballyhood of 1944 has become 1948's folksy campaign.

So we'll soon see if washtub neighborliness is a better vote getter than soap operas.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Quiet Christmas For Members Of Cabinet

WASHINGTON

YESTERDAY St. Nick found most of Harry Truman's Cabinet chiefs in Washington, like the President himself, who settled down for a quiet day with his family, after illuminating the big tree on the White House lawn.

However, the top Cabinet member, Secretary of State George Marshall, slipped away for a brief respite from the grind of world affairs, with his wife and kinfolk at Pinehurst, N. C. Another wayfarer, Commerce Secretary Averell Harriman, is spending a few days with Mrs. Harriman at the family Winter estate near West Palm Beach, Fla. While there, the commerce chief will put in some work on four speeches he plans to make in the next three weeks.

Secretary of Interior "Cap" Krug, ordinarily one of the busiest grip packers in the Cabinet, trimmed his Christmas tree in Washington with the help of his pretty, blonde daughter, Marilyn, a Wisconsin University co-ed, and nine-year-old son Jimmy. Secretaries of the Treasury John Snyder and Agriculture Clint Anderson also spent the day in the Capital with their families.

So did ubiquitous Attorney General Tom Clark, who got the lowdown on Texas University's chances against Alabama in the Sugar Bowl football game from his son, William Ramsey Clark, a T.U. student. The attorney general also took time out during the day to pay a traditional call on his young friends at the National Training School for Boys.

Secretary of Labor Lewis Schwellenbach and Postmaster General Jesse Donald enjoyed a quiet day in Washington with their wives, while Deborah, Charles and Patricia Sullivan, children of Navy Secretary John L. Sullivan, welcomed St. Nick with their parents at the Manchester, N. H., family home.

Christmas Business And Pleasure

DEFENSE Secretary Jim Forrestal mixed business with pleasure this Yuletide, inspecting Army and air installations on his way to and from West Palm Beach, Fla. Mrs. Forrestal and sons Michael and Peter, Princeton, students, spent the day in Washington.

Army Secretary Kenneth Royall and Mrs. Royall spent the day in New York City with their daughter, Mrs. James Davis, wife of a Manhattan physician, while Secretary for Air Stuart Symington and his wife enjoyed an old-fashioned homecoming with sons Stuart and James, freshmen at Yale.

Christmas Notes From The Senator-At-Large

MOST senators and congressmen, who kept St. Nick in business in Europe this Christmas, slipped home for the holidays and did Santa Claus duty for their own private families. Bob Taft and Arthur Vandenberg, co-bosses of the Senate, stayed in Washington. Vandenberg spent a quiet day with his wife, who is recovering from an operation. Taft devoted most of his time to three grandchildren, brought around by sons Bill and Horace.

House Speaker Joe Martin made a beeline to North Attleboro, Mass., to share Christmas with his aged mother and widowed sister. He also took time out to join employees of several jewelry manufacturing plants in a round of Yuletide parties.

Minority Leader Sam Rayburn presided over an old-fashioned Christmas party at his farm near Bonham, Texas, and the whole Rayburn tribe showed up for the occasion. Another old-fashioned Christmas, but with New England trimmings, was planned by Senate Appropriations Chairman Styles Bridges who celebrated with his wife and three children at East Concord, N. H.

Wedding Plans

SENATE Majority Leader Wallace White was more occupied with wedding plans than Christmas activity. He is busy making arrangements for the marriage of his granddaughter, Miss Nina Lynn, to Nat Luttrell on Jan. 8 here.

It was a particularly quiet Christmas for majority whip Kenneth Wherry, who returned from his father's funeral at Pawnee City, Neb., to spend Christmas in the Capital, and for House Ways & Means Chairman Harold Knutson, who spent the day at the bedside of a sick brother, Elmer, at St. Cloud, Minn.

Truman's Matches

THE White House correspondent reports: While scouting around at the White House on the other day, I picked up a little story I thought your readers might like to know about.

GOP Representative James C. Auchincloss of New Jersey, who saves book matches for his grandchildren, Kenneth (11 years) and Gail (8 years) Auchincloss of New York City, will have to do some tall explaining when he delivers his latest acquisition—matches from the personal supply of President Truman. Ordinarily these would make them a prize in the collection, but the New Jersey congressman is wondering if Kenneth and Gail may get suspicious about about how he obtained them.

While Auchincloss was at the White House with Democratic Representative Bob Jones of Alabama and other members of the District of Columbia Committee, Jones presented the President with a box of pictorial book matches advertising the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Truman said he was "delighted" with the gift, but insisted on reciprocating by handing out a match folder from a box on his desk to each of his callers. When Auchincloss asked if he might not have two folders, explaining that he saved them for his grandchildren, the President readily obliged.

The congressmen blinked as they examined the match books, then broke into a collective chuckle. In gold letters on the backs of the green folders were the words: "I swipped these from Harry S. Truman."